

SENATE

GARRETT P. MASON, District 17, Chair  
RODNEY L. WHITEMORE, District 26  
STAN GERZOFKY, District 10

MARION HYLAN BARR, Legislative Analyst  
ALYSON MAYO, Legislative Analyst  
FERN NEILSON, Committee Clerk



HOUSE

GARY E. PLUMMER, Windham, Chair  
DAVID C. BURNS, Whiting  
RICKY D. LONG, Sherman  
SUSAN E. MORISSETTE, Winslow  
DEBORAH J. SANDERSON, Chelsea  
ANNE M. HASKELL, Portland  
STEPHEN P. HANLEY, Gardiner  
MICHEL A. LAJOIE, Lewiston  
ANNA D. BLODGETT, Augusta  
MICHAEL H. CLARKE, Bath

State of Maine  
ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE  
COMMITTEE ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

June 29, 2011

Neale Duffett, Esq.  
Chair, State Board of Corrections  
Cloutier, Barrett, Cloutier & Conley  
22 Monument Square  
Portland, Maine 04101-4031

Dear Chair Duffett:

The Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee recently heard and worked LD 1542, An Act to Require All Correctional Facilities in the State to Participate in the Unified Inmate Transportation System. We understand that the transportation hub has been very successful in the areas in which it has been used, especially in York, Cumberland and Penobscot counties. However, it was brought to our attention through the introduction of LD 1542 that the coordination of transportation is not happening uniformly and consistently in all counties, and this is especially apparent in Washington County. Associate Commissioner Breton indicated that the Department of Corrections is trying to ensure that transportation efforts are coordinated and pledged to continue to work with Washington County to increase shared transports.

A coordinated inmate transportation system saves taxpayers and those working in the correctional system time and money, and we strongly encourage the board and its transportation Focus Group to continue to work with the Department of Corrections and the county jails to find methods to improve upon the coordinated system. In an effort to keep educated about this issue and be prepared to make policy or statutory changes to implement further recommendations, the committee asks that the board specifically address the status of coordinated transportation efforts when the board makes its annual report to us at the beginning of the Second Regular Session of the 125th Legislature. Thank you for your continued dedication and commitment to the improvement of our corrections system.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Garrett P. Mason".

Senator Garrett P. Mason  
Senate Chair

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Gary E. Plummer".

Representative Gary E. Plummer  
House Chair

c: Joseph Ponte, Commissioner, Department of Corrections  
Jody Breton, Associate Commissioner, Department of Corrections

Sheriff William Clark, Co-Chair Transportation Focus Group, Board of Corrections  
✓ Kate Snyder, Executive Director, State Board of Corrections  
Amy Fowler, President, Maine County Commissioners Association  
Robert Howe, Maine County Commissioners Association  
Sheriff Glenn Ross, President, Maine Sheriffs Association  
Sheriff Donald Smith, Washington County Sheriff's Office  
Lt. Mary Zidalis, Washington County Sheriff's Office  
Col. Mark Westrum, President, Maine Jail Administrators Association